

Message Text

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ORIGIN SSM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 SAA-01 SES-02
/025 R

DRAFTED BY SSM/C:L G PENDLETON, JR.:MA
APPROVED BY SSM:C W KONTOS
SSM/E:J WALLEN

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P 311548Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION SINAI PRIORITY

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FROM SSM

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, ASUP, OGEN

SUBJECT: RENOVATION OF E-1/J-1 AND OTHER MATTERS

REF: A. SINAI 2025, B. SINAI 1908

1. APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS ON SUBJECT PROPOSAL AS PROVIDED IN REF A. WE SHARE YOUR SENSE OF FRUSTRATION AS THIS EFFORT SEEMS TO DRAG ON. IN PARTIAL SUPPORT OF ESY, THEY HAVE BEEN IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS SHORTHANDED IN THE GREENVILLE OFFICE, AND HAVE BEEN DUMPING THE WATER WHERE THE FIRES ARE, WHICH WE ADMIT TO SETTING IN OTHER PLACES SUCH AS SECURITY, FIRE PROTECTION AND WATCH STATION OBSERVATION CAPABILITY. STILL, WE HAVE WORKED THIS PROBLEM TOO LONG.

2. FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF WHERE WE NOW FIND OURSELVES
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ON THIS PROJECT, IT APPEARS TO US THAT PART OF OUR COLLECTIVE DIFFICULTY HAS BEEN A CONCEPTUAL ONE OF DETERMINING SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS. THIS IN PART IS DEMONSTRATED, AS YOU POINT OUT, BY THE INEXPLICABLE OMISSION OF DISCUSSING NEEDS WITH THE LIAISON OFFICERS. ALSO FOR OUR PART, WE DID NOT SUFFICIENTLY EXPRESS TO YOU OUR RESERVATIONS, FROM A POLICY STANDPOINT, ON THE USE OF THE

MITLA EAST AND WEST MODULES FOR E-1 AND J-1.(EVEN IF WE COULD MOVE THEM WITHOUT GREAT DIFFICULTY). ALSO, IN

OUR FUTURE PLANNING SCENARIOS FOR THE SINAI, WE HAVE ASSUMED THESE TO BE USED AS LIVE-IN UNITS AS ORIGINALLY DESIGNED ALBEIT AT A DIFFERENT LOCATION. MOREOVER, IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT SOME CHANGE IN OUR PRESENT OPERATIONS WOULD MAKE LIVE-IN SHIFTS AT THESE LOCATIONS A DESIRABLE OPTION WHICH SHOULD BE PRESERVED.

3. LIKE YOU, WE HAVE BEEN DISAPPOINTED AT THE TEPID RESPONSE OF THE CONTRACTOR TO E-1 AND J-1 RENOVATION. VIEWED IN THE LIGHT OF ESY POLICY AND EXPERIENCE AS WE KNOW IT, THEIR ACTIONS IN THIS CASE HAVE BEEN TYPICAL. ESY IS MORE THAN USUALLY CUSTOMER-ORIENTED. THEY ARE CORPORATELY ACCUSTOMED TO RESPONDING POSITIVELY (OFTEN EXPENSIVELY) TO SPECIFIC CUSTOMER REQUIREMENTS, RATHER THAN RECOMMENDING A COURSE OF ACTION SELECTED BY THEM WHICH THE CUSTOMER MAY CRITICIZE. IN SIMILAR PAST SITUATIONS, THEY HAVE GONE SLOWLY ALSO, HOPING TO GET CLEARER PICTURE OF WHAT IS ACCEPTABLE RECOMMENDATION. GIVEN THIS REVIEW OF WHY WE FIND OURSELVES WHERE WE ARE, HOW BEST TO PROCEED?

4. BASED ON REF. A, WE HAVE ASKED ESY TO COME TO WASHINGTON EARLY NEXT WEEK TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER. ONE OPTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH CLEARLY EXISTS THAT THEY HAVE NOT ANALYZED (OR AT LEAST NOT REPORTED) IS THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW CONCRETE STRUCTURE ON-SITE, PERHAPS UNDER SUBCONTRACT TO ISRAELI OR EGYPTIAN FIRMS. WE ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONCERNED, FROM THE STANDPOINT OF SAFETY ALONE, ABOUT CONTINUED UTILIZATION OF THE FIBERGLASS BUILDINGS. AT THE SAME TIME WE NEED TO PROCEED WITH SOME CAUTION IN REPLACING EXISTING FACILITIES WITH MORE PERMANENT ONES IN LIGHT OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION WHICH SURROUNDS US.

5. FOLLOWING NEXT WEEK'S MEETING, WE WILL SEND YOU A SPECIFIC RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION, WITH A SCHEDULE FOR ACCOMPLISHMENT AND WILL WORK TO ASSURE THAT OUR WHEEL-SPINNING GETS US OUT OF THE SAND SOONER, RATHER THAN LATER.

6. NEW SUBJECT. WE HAVE EXPRESSED TO ESY THE CONCERN NOTED IN REF. B OVER FULL VALIDITY PASSPORTS FOR CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL. INITIAL ESY RESPONSE WAS TO REQUIRE ALL NEW PERSONNEL TO ARRIVE VIA CAIRO, THEREBY ASSURING POSSESSION OF EGYPTIAN PASSPORT IN PROPER ORDER. UPON LEARNING THIS, WE SUGGESTED THIS CURE MAY BE MORE TROUBLESOME THAN THE AILMENT, SUCH AS THE CASE OF A NEW

EMPLOYEE HOLDING VALID PASSPORTS TO EGYPT AND ISRAEL
BADLY NEEDED AS A REPLACEMENT AT SFM, FOR WHOM ACCOMMO-
DATIONS COULD NOT BE SECURED IN CAIRO, OR WHOSE TRAVEL

VIA CAIRO INVOLVED A TRANSPORTATION DELAY. ESY AGREES,
AND IS NOW FOCUSED ON ASSURING THAT PROPER PASSPORTS
ARE IN POSSESSION OF NEW EMPLOYEES BEFORE DEPARTURE.
EXCEPTIONS WILL BE CLEARED WITH SSM, AND BY US WITH
YOU, PRIOR TO DEPARTURE.

7. NEW SUBJECT. WE HAVE WRITTEN CONFIRMATION FROM ESY
THAT THEY CONCUR IN THE CRITERIA FOR GUARD RECRUIT-
MENT TRANSMITTED TO THEM BY LETTER OF AUGUST 14, 1978,
A COPY OF WHICH WAS POUCHED SFM ON THAT DATE. EFFECTIVE
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AT ONCE, THEY ARE UTILIZING THAT CRITERIA FOR REPLACING
PRESENT GUARDS ON ATTRITION BASIS. CHRISTOPHER

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